

SENATE RESOLUTION 7021 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Stevens

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Jerry Flippin of Milan.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William Jerry Flippin; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Flippin was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on October 21, 1927, Mr. Flippin was the firstborn child of Gerald Senter Flippin and Kate Stewart Flippin; he attended Milan public schools and graduated from Columbia Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, he honorably served as a member of the United States Army with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during World War II in the Pacific Theatre and the occupation of Japan; and

WHEREAS, upon his discharge from the Army, Jerry Flippin completed his college pre-law studies at Rhodes College and then attended Vanderbilt Law School, where he met the love of his life, Sara Floyd, on campus during his final year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Flippin became the fourth-generation Flippin to return home to Milan to begin his career, opening a solo practice law firm that today is known as Flippin, Collins, and Hill; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Flippin represented Gibson County as a member of the House of Representatives in the 79<sup>th</sup> and 81<sup>st</sup> General Assemblies, and he represented Dyer, Gibson, and Carroll counties as a member of the Senate in the 82<sup>nd</sup>, 83<sup>rd</sup>, and 84<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies; he was selected as Majority Leader and Administration Floor Leader in his last term, and he served as Speaker of the Senate for part of his second term. He was the chief sponsor of the Area

Vocational Training School Bill and sponsored the extension of the state sales tax to utility bills in order to fund the legislation; and

WHEREAS, with his family needing him at home, Mr. Flippin did not run for reelection and returned to his law practice, where he represented individuals and local corporations in litigation across the country, including cases in Hawaii and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished professional, he was a Fellow of the American and Tennessee Bar Foundations, chairman of the legal section of the American Public Power Association, and advocate of the American Board of Trial Attorneys; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Flippin was one of the founders of the Milan Golf and Country Club; over the years, he held leadership roles in the Milan Little League, Lions Club, Rotary Club, and Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of First United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully as chairman of the administrative board, a district lay leader, and a Sunday school teacher for more than sixty years; he was the founder and presiding chairman of the Milan Unity Prayer Breakfast, which he led for more than twenty-three years; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to spreading his Christian faith across the country and the world, Mr. Flippin enjoyed mission trips to the Redbird Mission in the Appalachian Mountains, and he led and participated in the Lay Witness Mission program, an evangelical movement, in churches throughout Tennessee, Mississippi, Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Illinois. He also joined mission trips sponsored by Volunteers in Mission and served in the Philippines, Costa Rica, the Netherland Antilles, Honduras, Africa, Cuba, Estonia, and Russia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Flippin was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Flippin was the proud father of William "Bill" Jerry Flippin, Jr., Floyd Senter Flippin, and Thomas Houston Flippin; he is lovingly remembered by his grandchildren, Jacob Graves Flippin, Clint Kirby Flippin, and Claire Elizabeth Flippin, and his sister, Carolyn Flippin Tate; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sara Floyd Flippin, and a grandson, W.J. "Trey" Flippin III; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Flippin leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of William Jerry Flippin, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Flippin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.